

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

EB/TT:JO'NEILL

NEA/RA:DMORRISON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 216851

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL, US, SA

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SAG ON REMOVAL OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FROM BOYCOTT

REF: JIDDA 5912

1. WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY'S SUGGESTION IN REFTEL THAT
THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE CHANNEL IN OUR APPROACHES TO THE
SAUDIS TO KEEP TELECOMMUNICATIONS OUT OF BOYCOTT ARENA.
WE BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE THROUGH EMBASSY JIDDA AND WE WILL
SHORTLY BE SENDING INSTRUCTIONS TO THE AMBASSADOR. WE
WILL HOLD OFF ANY CONTACTS WITH THE ARAB TELECOMMUNICATION
UNION AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION UNTIL
AFTER THE EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SAG, HOPEFULLY
BY MID-SEPTEMBER.

2. RCA HAS, IN MEANTIME, APPROACHED DEPT TO ASK OUR ADVICE
WHETHER IT WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE FOR THE COMPANY
TO APPROACH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT DIRECTLY IN GETTING OFF
THE BOYCOTT. BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL SENSITIVITY OF
BOYCOTT ISSUES, WE WILL LEAVE IT TO RCA TO DECIDE
ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US IN TALKING TO RCA TO
HAVE EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW WHETHER A PARALLEL APPROACH
BY RCA WOULD SERVE ANY USEFUL PURPOSE. ROBINSON

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